

From: Uncle Dave
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 12/7/01 1:16pm
Subject: MS slimy income tactics in small reseller suits

Gentlemen:

I am the victim of one of THOUSANDS of lawsuits that Microsoft has waged over the past few years. I own a wholesale computer hardware company, primarily building servers and workstations custom order for small volume resellers.

In April of this year MS bought 3 software packages from me through an undercover reseller. They took FOUR months to tell me it was counterfeit (yet have never shown me why). The software met ALL the tests I could use for genuineness.

They then sent me a "cease and desist" letter through one of their many law firms. I emailed a response that I would comply and begin to buy through one of the suppliers they authorize that was listed on their cease letter. Exactly ONE day after my email they bought another s/w package, even while I was taking down the information on my website and getting set up with their authorized distributors. A few weeks later they slapped me with a complaint/lawsuit in Federal court!!

I have spent over 7k with my attorney to answer/deny the suit. I have researched other lawsuits and find that HUNDREDS if not THOUSANDS are quite similar. WHY? would MS do this? They aren't interested in stopping the true piracy out there--THEY WANT THE INCOME FROM THESE SUITS, BOTH FOR THEMSELVES AND FOR THEIR ATTORNEYS! IT IS THEIR DIRTY LITTLE SECRET.

I have spoken to several victims of this perversion of the legal process. NO ONE CAN AFFORD TO LITIGATE THESE SUITS, and virtually ALL ARE SMALL BUSINESS PEOPLE WHO ARE FORCED TO SETTLE for HUGE AMOUNTS.

I plan on going to court without an attorney and asking for a jury trial. MS is so big, so arrogant, they simply are biting many hands in the channel that have fed them for years.

In all the years I have done business as Horizon Micro Distributors, WE HAVE NEVER EXPERIENCED INSTALLATION OR REGISTRATION PROBLEMS WITH WINDOWS98, OFFICE 2000 OR OFFICE 97, which are the specific programs they claim are bogus.

Any advice you might give us, or any reflection upon the arrogance of Microsoft that would affect the settlement in the big case, should consider their CURRENT ACTIVITY AND ATTITUDE TOWARD SMALL AND LEGITIMATE BUSINESSES.

We cannot have a bully of this size forcing small businesses out of

operation.

Thanks
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